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Your essential daily news | THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2015

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Jets draining city: Councillor

SPORTS
NHL team will see a \$6.6M rebate on taxes

 **Dave Baxter**
Metro|Winnipeg

A Winnipeg city councillor says it's time to review how much money the city pays to support its NHL team.

"For us as a city to be subsidizing a professional NHL hockey team is basically what we're doing," said Coun. Russ Wyatt at Wednesday's meeting of city council.

Wyatt said the Winnipeg Jets, owned by True North Sports and Entertainment, will see a \$6.6-million rebate of the city's entertainment and business taxes this year, thanks to a deal negotiated with TNSE before the Jets returned and became lucrative.

"When the deal was struck we didn't have a professional NHL

team at the time, we had the (Manitoba) Moose," said Wyatt.

"We were building, at that time, a facility where they didn't know if they were going to meet their financials of filling the new MTS Centre, so it was understandable for the entertainment tax to be part of that."

Jets season-ticket holder Danny Poitras, 43, is fine with the arrangement.

"Really, at the end of the day, \$6 million is three snow clearings," said Poitras. "There are other ways to trim fat at city hall."

Poitras said the deal is part of the reason the Jets could come back in the first place, and has no problem with governments helping out big league teams.

"The Jets create pride in the city, and it's something for this city to look forward to when it's -40 C."

Finance chairman Marty Morantz said city lawyers would look into the agreements, which are similar to ones the city has with the Winnipeg Blue Bombers and the Winnipeg Goldeyes.



BRAVING TRAGEDY

Maria Mitousis, injured after opening a letter bomb, has no time for self-pity **metroNEWS**

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THEATRE

Play adapted with trans-positive message



Dave Baxter
Metro | Winnipeg

A new adaptation of the classic play *Edward II* will put a trans-positive message into one of the most gruesome plays in English history.

Theatre by the River announced Monday they will stage an adaptation of *Edward II*, but it will be much different than the one theatre buffs might be used to.

Christopher Marlowe originally wrote the play in 1593, but in this adaptation, which was created by Winnipegger Kendra Jones, the story of the violent downfall of a reluctant English king imagines his son as a boy awkwardly transitioning to womanhood.

"When (director) Sarah Constible told me she saw a boy's journey to femininity in the midst of this classic verse tragedy, I wanted on board," said

assistant director Lara Rae.

"Her laser focus on a personal story of discovery in the middle of all this Elizabethan versifying and bloody executions gives the production so much heart, and so much relevance for today."

Winnipeg audiences can expect a provocative evening that opens discussions on identity, loyalty, leadership and betrayal, while also showcasing the beauty of a rarely performed Elizabethan verse play brought to life by some of the city's most talented local theatre artists, said Theatre by the River in a press release.

Edward II runs with five performances from Oct. 1 to 4 at the University of Winnipeg's Asper Centre for Theatre and Film at 400 Colony St.

Tickets are \$20, and \$15 for students, industry people and underemployed.

For full listings of show times, or to purchase tickets go to theatrebytheriver.com.



Mel Marginet is the prince in Theatre by the River's adaptation of Marlowe's *Edward II*. THEATRE BY THE RIVER/SOLMUND MACPHERSON

Convention centre gets new restaurant

EXPANSION

Renovations set to be finished by end of February



Shane Gibson
Metro | Winnipeg

Move over, Mon Ami Louis. Winnipeg diners are getting a new unique spot to nosh.

The multi-million dollar expansion of the RBC Convention Centre means changes are also coming to the building's second-floor Centre Place Café — and the biggest difference is going to be where diners sit to sip their soup once the work is done.

"They're going to sit on the sky bridge going across York," RBC Convention Centre president and CEO Klaus Lahr told Metro this week. "There's going to be ceiling to floor windows so you'll be able to sit along the windows of the walkway and watch the traffic and people walking by."

The convention centre had to get creative to come up with a new place for the seating area because the new skywalk that connects the current building to the new one being built on the other side of York Avenue



Klaus Lahr stands in front of the building's second-floor Centre Place Café, which is getting a makeover that will see customers seated in the skywalk over York Avenue when finished.

SHANE GIBSON/METRO

runs right through where customers used to sit.

"It would have been inconvenient to leave it the way it is," he said. "There will be traffic back and forth, and we didn't want to see our customers have to fight their way through tables and chairs."

The renovations will also modernize the look of the café and see a larger kitchen added,

according to Lahr, who said the space hasn't changed since an update in the mid-'90s.

The café's seating capacity of around 100 won't change, and Lahr said there's no plans to make any major changes to the menu either.

"The menu isn't anything fixed, so we change items on a daily basis anyway," he said.

Tenders for the restaurant

renovations went out this week, and the work should be finished in late February, before the entire project is finished March 1.

Lahr said the work will cost around \$300,000 — just a sliver of the expansion's \$181.6 million price tag.

The café remains open during construction on the other side of the elevators.

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IN BRIEF

City will use hotel tax cash to recoup large loan

The city will use funds from a hotel tax to recoup cash from a \$33-million loan for the Winnipeg Convention Centre expansion project.

The Winnipeg Convention Centre Corporation was supposed to pay back the loan with revenue it banked on getting from a hotel to be built next to the convention centre. But the hotel never materialized, so the city will now use cash from the Destination Marketing Reserve.

The city voted on Wednesday unanimously to use cash from the hotel tax, but both Canad Inns owner Leo Ledohowski and Manitoba Hotel Association president Jim Baker spoke out against the plan, saying the tax was supposed to be a fund for acquiring events, and not to be used as general revenue.

The city said the convention centre would repay the fund once it turns a profit. DAVE BAXTER/METRO

PST hike led to greater investments: report

The province says its controversial decision to add a point to the provincial sales tax has led to more than a billion dollars of infrastructure investment.

The government's second annual report on building and upgrading core infrastructure supported by targeted PST revenue shows \$1.032 billion was invested in 2014-2015. The NDP government raised the sales tax in 2013 to eight per cent from seven and changed a law that required a referendum on PST hikes, income or payroll taxes.

METRO WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS



Coun. Ross Eadie at Winnipeg city hall on Wednesday. Eadie said he does not oppose marijuana use for adults. DAVE BAXTER/METRO

Councillors push preemptive pot plan

REGULATIONS

Motion calls for some rules around sales, dispensaries



Dave Baxter
Metro | Winnipeg

Two Winnipeg city councillors believe it's just a matter of time before marijuana is legalized in Canada, so it's time to create

regulations on where pot and pot-related items can be sold in the city.

"Even if it's not after this federal election, it's coming," said Coun. Ross Eadie.

Eadie said as attitudes towards marijuana change and legalization looms in Canada, the city should have some control.

"As a city we can't keep our heads buried in the sand. We really need to establish some rules like they have in Vancouver, Victoria and Toronto."

Eadie and Coun. Matt Allard brought a motion to Wednesday's city council meeting asking

administration to examine how other Canadian municipalities are regulating cannabis and cannabis related sales.

Eadie said he is not personally opposed to marijuana use.

"Anyone that's just smoking pot, that's not as bad as people that get totally (drunk) and hurt people, or do other drugs and they turn violent."

"The majority of people in this country believe that cannabis is harmless."

Eadie said what he would like is regulations on where dispensaries, or head shops — which sell things like pipes and

other marijuana paraphernalia — could set up shop.

Eadie said a head shop recently opened up right by a middle school in his area, and that bothers him.

"Why are they promoting that lifestyle?" said Eadie. "I say to my kids that is something you need to decide when you are 18."

Eadie added that medical marijuana dispensaries and head shops in Vancouver can't open near schools or youth centres.

The motion now goes to the city's property and development committee.

REFUGEE PROFILE

Red River swimmer has claim approved

A Somali man who swam across the Red River thinking it was the border between the United States and Canada has had his refugee claim accepted.

The Immigration and Refugee Board told 32-year-old Yahya Samatar at a hearing in Winnipeg today that his claim was accepted.

Samatar can now apply to be a permanent resident, a process that could take more than a year.

At that time, he will be able to bring his wife and four children to Canada.

Samatar was a human rights worker in Somalia, was kidnapped and fled after his life was threatened by terrorist group Al Shabab.

It took him a year to reach Canada — first he flew from Somalia to Brazil, then hiked through the jungle to Colombia, then up through Central America and to the United States, where he was detained, then headed north.

He found himself on the shore of the Red River.

Although he wasn't exactly sure where he was, he believed crossing the river would land him on Canadian soil so he jumped in and swam across through the fast and frigid waters, wondering if he would encounter crocodiles as he would in rivers at home.

Emerging on the other side, Samatar walked across several farms before meeting a Good Samaritan who gave him clothes and linked him with the Canadian Border Services Agency.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/CTV WINNIPEG

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Lawyer opens up about ordeal

CRIME

Maria Mitousis focused on recovery after office bombing

A Winnipeg lawyer who lost her right hand when a letter bomb exploded in her office said she doesn't replay the ordeal in her head and doesn't have time for self-pity.

Maria Mitousis spoke publicly for the first time Wednesday when she thanked all the police officers, paramedics and health professionals who have helped her since she was injured in July.

"These things happen — tragedy happens, crazy things happen," she said. "I don't think, 'Why me?'"

As officials lauded her bravery and courage, Mitousis said she wasn't sure minutes after the blast whether she would survive, but her colleagues and first responders made her feel safe.

"The first moments, when you're alone, it's confusing. I was confused. I didn't know what had happened," she said, her voice wavering.



Maria Mitousis leans in to talk with Mayor Brian Bowman at a news conference Wednesday. She thanked all the emergency professionals and supporters that helped her when she was injured by a bomb sent to her office. THE CANADIAN PRESS

"After it happened, everyone was there. They immediately took control. Our articling student, I could hear her on the

phone with the ambulance and I was so comforted by that."

Mitousis lost her right hand and bears scars on her face from

the letter bomb that was contained in a seemingly harmless package sent to her office. She met many of the people who

came to her aid, for the first time Wednesday.

It was "easy to be brave when I had great role models," she told a news conference.

"I didn't think that I would be able to be calm, but I was. I just slowed down my breathing and I just knew that, no matter what, I had to be present in the moment."

Guido Amsel was charged with attempted murder after three letter bombs were sent to his former wife's workplace and the offices of lawyers who had represented him and his wife in their divorce.

He has been denied bail. Amsel's lawyer, Martin Glazer, is appealing that decision.

He said his client did not commit the crime and should not have to sit in jail until a trial that could be two years away.

Those who first responded to the explosion extolled Mitousis' strength and optimism. Const. Paul Barker was doing a routine

downtown patrol a few blocks away when he was called to her law firm. Nine years on the force and numerous false bomb threats didn't prepare him for what he encountered when he went inside.

"For a few seconds there, I was taken back a little bit by what I was seeing, but then the training kicked in," said Barker,

who described how he tried to stop the bleeding before paramedics arrived.

"I was trying to remain calm for Maria's sake."

Mitousis, who is well-known in Winnipeg's legal community, said her ultimate goal as she continues

her recovery is to go back to work. But she knows her journey is just beginning.

"Each day is challenging and I've had to get used to a very different me, but I'm optimistic," she said, smiling. "I am right-handed, but I'm not a surgeon. I'm going to adapt. I'll get through it."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

“These things happen — tragedy happens, crazy things happen. I don't think, 'Why me?’”

Maria Mitousis

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Winnipeg rock duo Cannon Bros., set to release their sophomore effort on Oct. 9. MARIE-FRANCE HOLLIER

Dream City kept short and sweet

BACKSTAGE PASS

New Cannon Bros. album features 19 new tracks

Jared Story
For Metro | Winnipeg

On its sophomore album Dream City, the Winnipeg rock duo Cannon Bros. delivers 19 songs, only two of which crack the three-minute mark.

Cole Woods, joined in Cannon Bros. by his lifelong friend (not sibling) Alannah Walker, says the band was “guided by voices” on Dream City. That’s not as insane as it sounds.

“We definitely took the Guided by Voices approach to the songwriting, having the songs be pretty short and try to get as many on the record as we could,” says Woods, referring to the American indie rock band known for its super-short songs.

“We actually had more songs. We put on as many that would fit on the record. Alannah and I are really big pop music fans. We like when things are concise.”

The songs may be short, but they’re more complex than the tunes from Cannon Bros.’ previous album Firecracker/Cloudglow. Dream City was produced by Cam Loeppky

(The Weakerthans, Imaginary Cities).

“With this album ... we went for a more multi-tracked approach,” says Woods, who shares drum, guitar and vocal duties in Cannon Bros. with Walker.

“On our last album we were trying to sound pretty two-piece-y. Even though there was bass stuff, it was pretty subtle. Now, this album has more parts to it.

Dream City may be more intricate than its predecessor, but it’s not like Cannon Bros. are playing progressive rock. The duo’s focus is still on hooks, harmonies and bouncy beats.

Woods, who grew up in Charleswood and first met Walker at Beaumont Elementary School, says Cannon Bros.’ emphasis on short and sweet comes from a few shared influences.

“We have some different tastes for sure, but we’re both really into Guided by Voices, Pavement and The Breeders. I also like classic stuff like The Beach Boys and I’d go as far to say The Carpenters, just really sugary stuff,” Wood says.

Dream City will be released on Oct. 9 via Disintegration Records.

Cannon Bros. play The Good Will Social Club on Saturday, Oct. 3. Opening the show are Shotgun Jimmie and Ian-sucks. Tickets are \$10 at Music Trader, The Good Will and Ticketfly. Showtime is 10 p.m.

ATTRACTIONS

Manitoba’s star festivals honoured

The Manitoba government is shining a spotlight on some of our province’s coolest festivals, events and attractions through a new designation program that hopes to promote tourism in the Keystone Province.

Culture, Heritage, Sport and Consumer Protection Minister Ron Lemieux unveiled the Star Celebrations program Wednesday and announced four events and one attraction to be the first to receive the distinction.

“Manitoba has a tremendous wealth of high-quality events, fes-

tivals and attractions. I’m proud to recognize the first four designated Star Celebrations events that showcase our unique culture, heritage and identity,” Minister Lemieux said in a release. “Manitoba is where

Canada’s Heart Beats and major events and festivals are an opportunity to demonstrate the



I’m proud to recognize the first four designated Star Celebrations.

Ron Lemieux

collective heart of our communities and the diversity of our culture.”

The designation is awarded to festivals and events that meet specific criteria, provide

a superior visitor experience, and engage visitors in unique experiences and local culture, the minister said.

The first organizations to receive Star Celebration designation are the St. Norbert Farmers’ Market, Festival du Voyageur, the Manito Ahbee Festival and the Icelandic Festival of Manitoba. The Arborg and District Multicultural Heritage Village was given the Manitoba Star Attractions designation. METRO

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VOTER PROFILE

Name: Bailey Reid **Age:** 30 **Riding:** Ottawa Vanier
Her issues: Violence against women, women in leadership roles

Wanted: Focus on women's issues



ROSEMARY WESTWOOD
in Ottawa

One thing dominates Bailey Reid's politics: The inequality of the sexes.

"You can talk about representation in Parliament, you can talk about child care, you can talk about violence against women, but I think that it does need that deeper analysis to show these are all results of women not being equal in Canada," she says.

Reid called Stephen Harper "the most absent" from the discussion. Neither he nor his status of women minister participated in the recent leader event devoted to women's issues — which touched on child care, violence against women, and women in leadership roles.

While NDP's Thomas Mulcair and Liberal's Justin Trudeau participated, Reid found those leader's analyses missed that point. No leader has been identifying inequality as the root

cause, nor underlining the ludicrousness of segregating key issues for half the voting public under the ill-fitting "women's issues" banner — with the exception of Elizabeth May.

"Part of me wants to vote Green because I'm sick of (Elizabeth May) being ignored," Reid says. The Green leader was barred from the debates on the economy and on foreign policy, and Reid seems incredulous that a feminist reading of economic policy was missing from the other leaders' comments.

"It would be nice to see a woman taken seriously, and it does feel very, pat pat on the head, 'That's cute Miss May, but you can't come.'"

But Reid won't be voting Green, because her local candidate doesn't have good odds.

The 30-year-old's riding, Ottawa Vanier, is staunchly Liberal, and likely to remain so. Reid says her natural political home has been the Liberal Party, so she's likely

voting that way again on Oct. 19. But she admits to some waffling. She likes the NDP's strategies on violence against women and national child-care plans.

Justin Trudeau's opaque comments that misogyny is fuelled by "certain kinds of music" and absent fathers certainly didn't impress Reid. "I wish he had a really good gender adviser," she quips. But the Liberals' promise to bring gender equity to cabinet is promising, she says, and so too the promise of a missing and murdered indigenous women inquiry. Trudeau is clearly willing to talk about inequality and sexism, she adds.

And that's the least that Reid is hoping for in this election: A prime minister willing to start talking more about women.

Rosemary Westwood is travelling across the country talking to young voters. She'll be in Toronto on Thursday.

'Fastest-growing industry' ignored

Tech industry is accusing leaders of poor planning



Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

Federal leaders must show concrete plans on how technology will feature into their vision of the country, a local tech company has said.

Just days after founders of Lighthouse Labs wrote to Stephen Harper, Justin Trudeau and Thomas Mulcair expressing the tech community's disappointment over the lack of discussion on how to boost the country's economy through technology, Liberals responded swiftly.

Justin Trudeau announced Tuesday in Winnipeg a \$900-million commitment to advance tech innovations and startup incubators.

"That's what we've been looking for from every leader," said Jeremy Shaki, co-founder of the web and mobile software development company. He described Trudeau's move as "phenomenal" but was quick to add sustainability is key.

"I'm not just asking for them to throw money everywhere, but specifically where does tech fit into their plans?" he said.

In the letter, the group had accused leaders of completely ignoring the technology industry in their discussions, and only fo-



Company critical of commitment to transform the education sector by incorporating technology in the system. GETTY IMAGES

cusing on short-term things "just to help them win certain votes, overlooking the fastest growing industry in North America."

Shaki remained critical of the leaders' commitment to transform the country's education sector by incorporating technology in the system.

"It's a shame. How are we voting on people when we have absolutely no idea how they'll be approaching these critical issues?" he said.

Groups in the tech industry have done "a phenomenal job" without much support from the government, and it's time leaders commit to promoting technological innovations, he said.

Lighthouse Labs believes most of tomorrow's job markets will require basic levels of web design

and coding. The company has taken its trainings throughout the country, helping a total of its 300 graduates to land jobs with tech companies. Its HTML500 summer series have helped over 2,500 young Canadians learn basic skills in coding for free.

"Coding as a tool is so much like math," said Shaki, adding Canada should emulate nations like the U.K. and introduce coding classes in elementary and high schools, making it a mandatory subject.

"Even if you don't become a developer, knowing to code will help you find creative, logical and critical solutions."

There needs to be a top-down approach, or at least a conversation from the top about how to grow this industry, he said.



The technology industry has been completely ignored through all debates.

Jeremy Shaki

BY THE NUMBERS

Technology in Education

How other countries around the globe are schooling Canada on the future

</> England's new curriculum teaches the basics of coding as early as **5 years old**

</> Estonia is teaching **first graders** how to create their own computer games



The American "Hour of Code" effort says it has already persuaded **28 MILLION** people to give programming a try.

SOURCE: THE NEW YORK TIMES

Tories defend TPP trade deal

CARETAKER CONVENTION

Pact ignores protocol that limits activities during election

The Conservatives are conducting negotiations toward a massive 12-country trade deal — that could well prove to be their campaign centrepiece — in secret in the middle of an election, the Liberals and NDP charged Wednesday.

As Justin Trudeau unveiled the Liberal health-care policy plank, one of the last remaining pieces of his party's platform, and NDP Leader Tom Mulcair promised to establish a parliamentary science officer to advise his would-be government, the Conservatives were answering awkward questions about the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which could be announced, in some form, as early as Friday.

Joe Oliver, in a rare national campaign appearance, defended the government's right to conduct official business during the election period.

The finance minister rejected



Federal finance minister and Conservative candidate Joe Oliver speaks during a press conference in Toronto on Wednesday. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

suggestions that the government's continued pursuit of the TPP is a violation of the so-called "caretaker convention," which is supposed to limit government activity during an election period.

"There is a protocol in place and we of course consult with the Privy Council on these issues,"

Oliver said.

"When there's a matter of importance or urgency for the government to deal with in the national interest then it's appropriate for us to do that. And this is certainly one of those cases."

The convention also stipulates that governing parties are

expected to consult opposition parties on matters that could end up tying the hands of future governments.

Trudeau flat out said he had "not been approached by anyone in government on the Trans-Pacific Partnership."

"One of the things that we've



WHERE THE LEADERS ARE THURSDAY



- **Stephen Harper** has no public events.
- **Justin Trudeau** will be in Montreal.
- **Tom Mulcair** will be in Montreal.
- **Elizabeth May** will be in Victoria, B.C.

seen over the past years with this government is an approach that has been secretive, non-transparent, that hasn't let Canadians know what it is negotiating and how it is negotiating, what is on the table," he said in Surrey, B.C.

"It would be unrealistic for us to expect that the whole world will stop and wait with bated breath for the outcome of Canada's election. But what we need to know is that our government is negotiating in a way that is going to enhance Canadian opportunities and growth while protecting our interests."

Trade Minister Ed Fast is in Atlanta for a renewed round of

negotiations, and speculation is rampant that an agreement in principle could emerge by the end of the week.

Mulcair said he is "very worried" about what Prime Minister Stephen Harper is willing to put on the table.

"I don't trust Stephen Harper as a negotiator," he said in Iqaluit. "He's not good at it. He has an ideological bent that means he doesn't care about what happens here at home. ... We've been asking the prime minister to defend our supply management system in its entirety and we'll accept nothing less."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Former Quebec lieutenant-governor sentenced to 18-month jail term

Calling her behaviour "highly reprehensible" and part of a "culture of deceit," a judge sentenced former Quebec lieutenant-governor Lise Thibault to 18 months in prison on Wednesday.

The sentence was handed down six years after Thibault, now 76, was charged with fraud and breach of trust.

The Queen's former representative left the courtroom in handcuffs in her wheelchair and was then

incarcerated.

Thibault was charged two years after a 2007 report by the federal and provincial auditors general revealed she claimed more than \$700,000 in improper expenses when she held the vice-regal post between 1997 and 2007.

Her trial heard the money was spent on gifts, trips, parties, meals and skiing and golf lessons.

Thibault was ordered to reimburse \$200,000 to Ottawa and \$100,000 to Quebec. THE CANADIAN PRESS

AIR TRAVEL

Stop separating families: Minister

Canada's transport minister quietly wrote to the heads of every major airline in the country earlier this year in an effort to stamp out a practice where parents were being seated separately from their children on flights.

In the March letter, Lisa Raitt called the issue one "where logic should prevail" and encouraged the airlines to ensure parents were seated with their young children whenever possible.

She asked airlines to come up with some way to eliminate such incidents, provide "greater

predictability" to parents and "minimize the challenges that parents face when they embark on air travel with children."

A briefing note accompanying the letter suggests the missive wasn't intended to signal that the federal government was going to legislate an end to the practice by airlines, but to promote what Raitt's officials called "an industry-led solution."

Still, Transport Canada officials wrote in the briefing note that they were "exploring opportunities to address this issue and

input from air carriers would be useful in that regard."

There are no federal rules requiring parents to be seated next to their children on flights, nor is it a guarantee under airline policy that a parent or guardian will automatically get a seat next to children under age 12.

The Canadian Transport Agency ruled late last year that ticketing rules that don't guarantee adjoining seats for parents and their children were neither unreasonable nor discriminatory.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

President of COC steps down amid allegations of sexual harassment

Marcel Aubut has stepped down as president of the Canadian Olympic Committee and chairman of the Canadian Olympic Foundation as he is investigated for sexual harassment. Aubut was asked to step away from his duties for the duration of the investigation. The 67-year-old from Saint-Hubert-de-Riviere-du-Loup, Que., says he will fully cooperate with the investigation. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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 **ELECTION 2015**

Rivals argue PM's remarks intended to divide citizens

 **Michael Woods**
Metro | Ottawa

Prime Minister Stephen Harper is fostering division when he suggests that elite opinion is "completely divorced" from what ordinary people think, opposition candidates said Wednesday.

In an interview with Metro on Tuesday, Harper was asked about his past comments on "elites."

"It's not that elite opinion doesn't matter," he said. "Expert opinion always counts. But you cannot govern well, and you cannot govern properly, unless you understand the values and realities of ordinary Canadians."

As an example, he cited the government's law that allows them to strip people convicted of terror offences of their Canadian citizenship if they have citizenship from another country.



Stephen Harper greets supporters in Richmond Hill, Ont., on Tuesday. Metro asked the Tory leader Tuesday about his comments on expert advice. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

He said the other parties' opposition to the law is "elite political correctness on steroids."

However, Ottawa's NDP and Liberal candidates said Harper is simply trying to divide Canadians.

"Elite" is really anyone who disagrees with his ideological views," said Ottawa Centre Liberal candidate Catherine McKenna. "It could be the courts,

the media, human-rights organizations, often the legal community or senior bureaucrats in the public service," she said.

Paul Dewar, the NDP incumbent in Ottawa Centre, said the Conservatives are trying to use the citizenship revocation law as a wedge issue. He added that the Conservative government has often ignored or not sought the advice of public servants in

creating certain laws.

"They just stovepipe it: they just go around the public service. They have their own point of view, and it gets right into law.... The end result, often, is a court challenge, and the laws are thrown out," he said. "The public service, the Supreme Court, anyone who has any background knowledge in this case in law is considered an elite."

DEMOCRACY

Brothers build site to track MP voting

Shay Neufeld was just looking for a way to track MPs' voting records in the House of Commons.

It seemed like something that should exist. Neufeld wanted to see how members of Parliament voted on Bill C-51, the government's anti-terror law.

He found openparliament.ca, a definitive resource. But with many different readings of each bill and no way to easily track a single MP's voting record, it wasn't what he needed.

"I was shocked as a democratic citizen that the government didn't make it easier for me to search through the votes that I wanted to look for," said the 27-year-old Vancouver native, a PhD candidate in neuroscience at Harvard University.

When he realized no such tool existed, he decided to create one. He enlisted his brother Braden, 23, a programmer and website designer.

The result is votes.mp, a searchable website that displays MPs' voting records dating back to 2006. It's searchable by member, riding, postal code, bill number and name and allows users to look at a single

politician's voting history in the House of Commons.

"We really just wanted to come down to a simple tool for people to use for a single purpose," Braden Neufeld said.

They started in June, using data from openparliament.ca. With the election coming up, they sped up their work. The website went live Sept. 19.

“

I couldn't believe it. I said, 'Do we really not have something for this?'

Braden Neufeld

The brothers said the site has been garnering a couple of thousand views a day. During Monday night's leaders debate, traffic on the site spiked whenever a particular bill was mentioned.

"We're open to suggestions for tools people are looking for," Shay Neufeld said. "This is a good start, but we're also looking to grow."

MICHAEL WOODS/METRO IN OTTAWA

HEALTH

Gut bacteria may affect asthma risk, say researchers

Canadian researchers have discovered that babies at high risk of developing asthma may have low levels of four types of bacteria in their gastrointestinal tracts — and boosting those microbes may help prevent the disease.

Asthma is a chronic inflammatory disease that clogs the airways with mucus, causing an affected person to have difficulty breathing. The disease kills roughly 250 Canadians each year, about 20 of them children.

The condition arises when the immune system — which

develops early in life through interactions with bacteria and other microbes in the gut — goes awry and attacks lung and airway tissues, causing them to overreact to allergens like pet dander and other environmental triggers.

A research team led by University of British Columbia scientists identified four bacteria that appear to be involved with the development of asthma when deficient in numbers.

Dubbed FLVR — for Faecalibacterium, Lachnospira, Veillonella and Rothia — these bacteria

are typically acquired by babies from the environment. They are among trillions of bugs that make up the human "microbiome" and are critical for keeping us healthy.

But factors such as being born via C-section, having formula over breastfeeding and taking bacteria-destroying antibiotics early in life can alter the makeup of so-called good bacteria in the digestive system.

"This research supports the hygiene hypothesis that we're making our environment too

“

This discovery gives us new potential ways to prevent this disease.

Dr. Stuart Turvey

clean," said co-lead investigator Brett Finlay of the University of British Columbia.

The researchers, whose find-

ings appeared Wednesday in Science Translational Medicine, made that determination after analyzing fecal samples from 319 children enrolled in the Canadian Healthy Infant Longitudinal Development (CHILD) study.

Analysis of samples taken at three months of age found that 22 babies shown by allergy testing to be at very high risk of asthma had decreased FLVR levels in their gut flora compared to children at little or no risk.

However, the researchers found fewer differences in FLVR

levels among the children at one year of age, suggesting the first three months of life are a critical period for the gut microbiome to help train the immune system.

"(This discovery) shows there's a short — maybe 100-day — window for giving babies therapeutic interventions to protect against asthma," said co-lead researcher Dr. Stuart Turvey of BC Children's Hospital.

Testing needs to be done in larger groups of children to confirm the findings, said the researchers.

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Pope tells Davis: 'Stay strong'

RELIGION

Secret meeting confirmed by Vatican baffles LGBT activists

Defiant Kentucky clerk Kim Davis met briefly with Pope Francis during his historic U.S. visit, an encounter she said validates her crusade against gay marriage.

"He held out his hand to her and she grasped his hand," her attorney, Mat Staver, told The Associated Press. "He asked her to pray for him and she said she would; she asked the pope to pray for her, and he said he would."

The Vatican essentially confirmed the meeting: The Vatican spokesman, the Rev. Federico Lombardi, given the opportunity to deny it took place, declined to do so and said merely

that he would have no comment. The Vatican newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano, said the meeting was private and that no photos would be released.

Davis, an Apostolic Christian, became a protagonist in America's divisive culture wars when she defied the federal courts by refusing to license same-sex marriages despite the landmark Supreme Court ruling that effectively legalized them nationwide. She spent five days in jail until her deputies agreed to issue licences without her approval.

Davis and her husband met with Francis alone for less than 15 minutes at the Vatican Embassy in Washington, Staver said. He would not say who initiated the meeting with the pope or how it came to be, citing a desire to be "deferential to the Vatican."

They chose to keep the meeting a secret while the pope was in the county, to avoid overshadowing his visit with the



Rowan County Clerk Kim Davis said meeting the Pope with her husband has inspired her to continue to fight for her religious beliefs. TIMOTHY D. EASLEY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

controversy that follows Davis, Staver said.

Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, also referred questions back to the Vatican.

Pope Francis needs to state clearly where he stands in regard to the inclusion of LGBT people in the church and society.

Francis DeBernardo

validates everything."

For some, the pope's decision to meet with a figure as divisive as Davis sullied the legacy of his celebratory visit.

DignityUSA, an advocacy group for gay and lesbian Catholics, called their meeting "deeply disappointing" and said it could transform the public perception of the trip "from a largely successful pastoral visit to the endorsement of an exclusionary political agenda."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ISIL INTERVENTION

Russia calls for unified combat

Russia followed its launch of airstrikes in Syria with a call on Wednesday for the world to unite in the fight against terrorist groups, and Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told foreign ministers of world powers that his country was circulating a draft UN Security Council resolution to help make it happen.

Secretary of State John Kerry responded by announcing that the United States is prepared to welcome Russia actions in Syria if they are directed at the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) group and al-Qaida, and promising that the U.S.-led coalition fighting ISIL in Syria would "dramatically accelerate our efforts."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ARABIAN PENINSULA

U.S. Navy seizes ship hauling illicit arms

A ship carrying illicit arms believed to be from Iran was intercepted last week off the southern Arabian Peninsula by a member of a U.S.-backed naval coalition and was not registered with any country, the U.S. Navy said Wednesday.

The description of the ship's seizure conflicted in some instances with an earlier account provided by a separate Saudi-led coalition battling Yemen's Shiite rebels, which claimed in a state-

ment carried by the state-run Saudi Press Agency that it had foiled the smuggling attempt.

The Saudi coalition alleged that Iran was using the vessel to ship arms to the rebels, charges denied by Tehran.

The U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet, based in Bahrain, said a member of the Combined Maritime Forces, a long-standing multinational coalition, intercepted the vessel in international waters last Friday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Uncovered monument may have been for Hephaestion

An opulent underground monument in northern Greece that caused a stir when excavated last year may have been a symbolic grave — but not the final resting place of — the closest friend and general of ancient warrior-king Alexander the Great, the excavator says. Archeologist Katerina Peristeri said Wednesday she believes the vaulted structure "was a funerary monument for Hephaestion."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ohio man unaware of stolen painting hanging in home

An Ohio man says he had no idea an 18th-century painting hanging in his home for over 20 years had been looted from a Polish museum by the Nazis during World War II.

John Bobb learned that history when the FBI's Cincinnati office called in July.

Bobb was told the "Portrait of a Young Man" by Krzysztof Lubieniecki had been stolen from the National Museum in Warsaw in 1944. It's been returned to Polish officials.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIGRANT CRISIS

Relief agencies set up camp in Greece

Relief agencies have set up a tent city at Greece's border with Macedonia to cope with the growing number of migrants trying to reach central Europe ahead of winter — with some resorting to extreme measures to complete the journey.

The facilities that have been set up over the past week have a capacity of 1,000 to serve one of the busiest bottlenecks in the country, near the Greek border town of Idomeni.

In the past 24 hours, some 4,500 people arrived at the Idomeni crossing, most of them by bus from Athens, Greek police said.

Syrian English literature student Hussam Jaban, 21, told The Associated Press he swam to a Greek island from the Turkish coast to avoid paying smugglers and keep enough money for the mainland journey through Europe.

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Blasts in mail packages kill 7

CHINA

Suspect is local man; state treating case as criminal act

More than a dozen blasts triggered by explosive devices delivered in mail packages killed at least seven people and injured more than 50 in a small city in southern China on Wednesday, officials and state media said.

The Ministry of Public Security said it was treating the case as a criminal act, and not terrorism. It said a 33-year-old local man, identified only by his family name of Wei, was considered a suspect, but provided no further details, including a possible motive or whether the man had been detained. Local media reported the suspect had been apprehended.

A local Communist Party newspaper, the Guangxi Daily,

cited police as saying there were 17 explosions in Liucheng, leaving seven people dead, two missing and 51 injured.

The explosions, which occurred between 3:15 p.m. and 5 p.m., hit a hospital, local markets, a shopping mall, a bus station and several government buildings, including a jail and dormitories for government workers, according to a police statement posted by the local newspaper Nanguo Zaobao.

"There were so many of them, and they were so loud, everyone in (Liucheng) could hear them," said a hotel employee who gave only his family name, Li. The hotel is near a township office building that was hit by one of the explosions.

Zhou Changqing, the police chief for the city of Liuzhou, which has jurisdiction over Liucheng, said the blasts were triggered by explosive devices delivered in several mail packages, state broadcaster CCTV reported.

A supermarket employee said

“They sounded like someone was blasting rocks in the mountain.”

Hotel employee Li

the store was evacuated immediately when an adjacent supermarket was hit by an explosion.

"All of us heard the blast. It was very loud," he said.

Photos posted online showed streets filled with smoke, strewn debris, dust clouds in the sky and the rubble from a five-storey building that had partially collapsed.

The official Xinhua News Agency reported that at least one more explosion hit downtown Liuzhou, away from Liucheng. It did not say whether there were any casualties from that blast or whether it was connected to the ones in Liucheng.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



A residential building partially collapsed by what police are describing as explosive devices delivered in mail packages in Liucheng county in south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region on Wednesday. CHINATOPIX VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Woman accused of tossing newborn from window appears in court

A New York woman accused of concealing her pregnancy and then tossing her newborn daughter from a seventh-storey window has appeared in court on a murder charge.

Thirty-three-year-old Jennifer Berry was arraigned late Tuesday in Bronx Criminal Court and was being held without bail.

The medical examiner says the baby died from blunt force trauma in the fall. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UN changes HIV rules, says doctors should treat patients immediately

The World Health Organization has revised its HIV guidelines to recommend that anyone who tests positive for the virus that causes AIDS should be treated immediately.

In a statement WHO said the recommendations are based on recent trials that have found early treatment "keeps people with HIV alive, healthier and reduces the risk of transmitting the virus." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Joaquin gains force, nears U.S.

EXTREME WEATHER

Hurricane projected to grow into major storm

Hurricane Joaquin intensified Wednesday as it approached the small, sparsely populated islands of the eastern Bahamas on a projected track that would take it near the East Coast of the U.S. early next week.

Maximum sustained winds reached 135 km/h and extended 55 kilometres from the centre of the storm over the Atlantic Ocean, according to the U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami, which predicted that Joaquin would develop into a major hurricane in the coming days.

Authorities in the Bahamas prepared for a brush with the storm, with the centre expected to pass near several eastern islands before heading north-west.



This satellite image shows Joaquin barreling into the Bahamas with maximum sustained winds of 113 km/h.

WEATHER UNDERGROUND/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

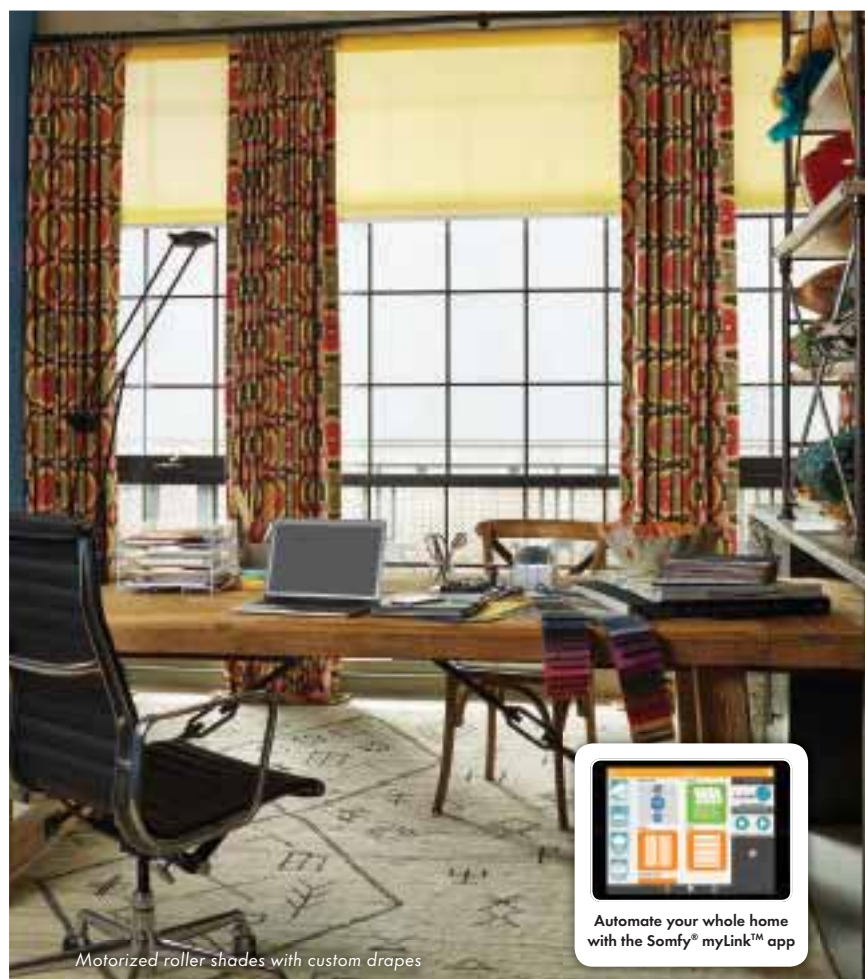
"We've got Air Force reconnaissance planes continuously giving us data from inside the hurricane this morning, and we're going to be throwing a lot more aircraft resources at this problem over the next few days because it still is not certain whether or not Joaquin will directly impact the U.S. East Coast or stay out to sea," said Rick Knabb, director of the National Hurri-

cane Center.

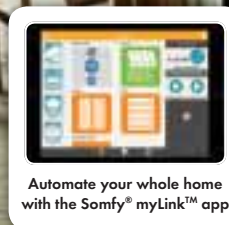
The hurricane was expected to pass near the islands of San Salvador, Cat Island, Eleuthera and Rum Cay late Thursday and Friday, close enough that it could bring tropical-storm-force winds, storm surges, coastal flooding and five to 10 inches of rain, said a senior forecaster with the Bahamas Meteorology Department.

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AUTO INDUSTRY

Ford issues recall for minivans, F-150

Ford is recalling nearly 59,000 older Windstar minivans in Canada as part of a wider safety notice because the fix used in a previous recall for a rear-axle repair might not work.

The latest recall covers around 342,000 vans built at the company's Oakville, Ont., plant from 1998 through 2003 and sold in both Canada and the United States.

Ford said Wednesday that the Windstars were recalled in 2010 due to axle cracks that could grow and lead to complete failure and a crash.

They're being recalled again because a reinforcement bracket from the first recall may have been installed incorrectly. The bracket was designed to

mitigate problems if the axle failed.

The company says it has reports of a small number of accidents but no injuries. The exact number was not available.

Dealers will inspect the vans and, if the brackets weren't installed right, replace the axles. If they were correctly installed, customers will be offered a \$300 discount on the price of an axle replacement.

Also on Wednesday, Ford said it was recalling 37,000 F-150 pickups from the 2015 model year in the U.S. and Canada to fix a problem with the adaptive cruise control system that automatically brakes the trucks to avoid a crash.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

McDonald's serves a new experience

FOOD INDUSTRY

Rebranded ordering options to debut by 2017

McDonald's Canada CEO John Betts says lining up to pay for the same old burger will soon be a thing of the past.

The company is overhauling the way it does business, adding self-service kiosks and bringing table service and dedicated wait staff to its restaurants.

"We are kicking off a bold plan to transform what guests experience when they visit McDonald's restaurants across Canada," says Betts. "We want our guests to walk in and be wowed by an experience that's modern and personalized, but still the McDonald's they know and love."

The new kiosks will allow customers to personalize their orders as McDonald's adds a



As part of the shift, the initiative will create 15,000 jobs domestically, and will encourage continued use of food sourced from Canadian suppliers. EUGENE HOSHIKO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

premium burger to the menu with nearly 30 different options including five types of cheese, 12 toppings, two buns, a lettuce wrap and nine sauces.

The company says the plan will include the creation of

15,000 new jobs across the country as it adds employees who will greet customers and guide them through the ordering process.

Betts says most of the 1,400 McDonald's restaurants in



We're innovating and evolving for the future.

CEO John Betts

Canada will be changed to the new ordering format by 2017.

The company said it is also continuing its mission to provide food that tastes good, and to use quality ingredients, many of which are sourced from Canadian suppliers. Future plans for the restaurant chain will also aim to advance McDonald's sustainability and Canadian sourcing initiatives.

"We always listen to our guests, and this ambitious plan is exactly what they've asked us to do," said Betts. "We're innovating and evolving for the future, and we're excited to bring our guests along on this journey with us." METRO, WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

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MEDIA

Poll says 40% of young adults in the U.S. pay for their news

In a world flush with free information, some young people are still willing to shell out for news they read.

A recent poll shows that 40 per cent of U.S. adults aged 18-34 pay for at least some of the news they read, whether it's a print newspaper, a digital news app or an email newsletter. Another 13 per cent don't pay themselves but rely on someone else's sub-

scription, according to the survey by Media Insight Project, a collaboration of the American Press Institute and the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

"Forty per cent is a strong number but that means the majority are not willing to pay," said Keith Herndon, a visiting professor of journalism at the University of Georgia and for-

mer journalist.

The survey of 1,045 young adults was conducted from Jan. 5 through Feb. 2, 2015, by the Media Insight Project, a partnership between the AP-NORC Center and the American Press Institute, which funded the study.

The survey results have a margin of error plus or minus 3.8 percentage points.

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CHANTAL HÉBERT: ON THE NDP IN QUEBEC



“A repeat orange wave is indefinitely on hold, and things could actually get worse for the New Democrats.”

Less than a month ago, the NDP was poised to sweep Quebec for the second federal election in a row. Now, a repeat orange wave is indefinitely on hold and things could actually get worse for the New Democrats.

An Abacus poll published on Monday showed the NDP still leading the pack in Quebec, but down 17 points from a mid-September sounding. Other polls have reported a smaller drop but all concur on the trend. As the election gets nearer, Thomas Mulcair's party is falling from grace in Quebec.

There is no doubt the controversy over whether Muslim women should be required to unveil their faces to take the oath of citizenship is acting as a catalyst for the drop in party fortunes.

An overwhelming majority of Quebecers support a niqab ban. The NDP opposes it.

But the New Democrat campaign had started to lose steam before the niqab appeared on the radar, for reasons more fundamental than the pent-up passions unleashed by a Conservative play on the identity front.

From a Quebec perspective the NDP's platform is an overwhelming one.

With the provincial government's cost-cutting crusade already taking a toll on its social programs, it is hard to think of a NDP commitment more likely to miss the mark with Quebec's progressive voters than the come-hell-or-

high-water determination to balance the federal books. If anything, many Quebecers are suffering from an overdose of government-imposed austerity.

The promise of a national universal child-care system has short legs in a province that has set up the most comprehensive program in the country on its own.

Mulcair's call to open the Constitution to abolish the Senate is similarly of limited appeal.

For one, it pits the NDP leader against Quebec Premier Philippe Couillard. He believes the Senate should be reformed, not abolished. And then there is the matter of Quebec's own long-standing constitutional agenda. Couillard insists that a round on the Senate would have to include

it as well.

On that score, Mulcair did not help his cause when he told Radio-Canada two weeks ago that the premier's stance was just part of the game.

Going into the campaign, the NDP leader's Quebec trump card was the sense that he was best placed to beat Stephen Harper. More so than any federal NDP initiative, it was the party's victory in Alberta last spring that cemented Mulcair's formidable pre-campaign lead in his home province. Now the fact that the party is running third in the rest of Canada is sinking in.

At this juncture, the question on everyone's mind is whether the NDP has hit bottom in Quebec or whether it could continue to lose support

between now and the vote.

The short answer is that the New Democrats have no fixed floor of support in Quebec. It has yet to build a solid capital of loyalty.

Mario Dumont, the former leader of the Action Démocratique party, can testify to the perils of that.

In 2007, he came within seven seats of leading his young party to a minority victory against Jean Charest's provincial Liberals. But over the year and a half that followed, Quebecers were unimpressed by the ADQ's performance in official opposition. In an election held 20 short months after he had landed on the doorstep of provincial power, Dumont was left with only seven seats.

If the NDP is to avoid going in a similar tailspin, time is increasingly of the essence. Over the next four days, Mulcair will have his last best two opportunities to reverse the tide.

On Friday, he will take part in the last French-language debate of the campaign on the Quebec private network TVA. Then, on Sunday, Mulcair will appear on *Tout le monde en parle*, Radio-Canada's popular television talk show. Both events are expected to draw large audiences.

But Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau is going into the debate on more of a roll than he is, and the niqab issue that has been the NDP's nemesis in Quebec is bound to come up on both nights.

Mulcair is down two strikes. He desperately needs a home run if he wants his party to still be the Quebec home team after Oct. 19.

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer. Her column appears in Metro every Thursday.

metroview

Want to close the pay gap? Women need to talk more about money



Renee Sylvestre-Williams
For Metro

Let's talk about something we rarely talk about: salaries.

Two incidents have shaped my views on salary negotiations.

The first was when I was negotiating my first salary increase. I was at an online media company and had recently taken on new responsibilities and hit some pretty impressive, measurable targets. I wanted a raise because I thought I deserved one. I made an appointment to speak with my boss.

After 30 excruciating minutes, I got a two-per-cent increase with a condescending, "You should be grateful for that." I handed in my notice three months later. I couldn't work for someone who tried to make me feel bad about asking for more money.

Canadian women make significantly lower wages than men for many reasons: A shortfall of women in senior positions, a widespread fear of asking for more and a dearth of conversations at the grassroots level.

We can help each other understand what we're worth.

To close the gap, we need to talk about money. We should talk about which companies provide the best work-life balance, which have the best perks and which offer the best pay.

Yet how many of us negotiate our salaries, or have told our friends what we make? Most don't.

According to a report released in May by the WEB Alliance of Women's Business Networks, Canadian women make an average of \$8,000 per year less than men in equivalent positions.

By discussing our salaries with our friends, we can tear down the systemic barriers that stop us from earning the same pay as men. We can help each other understand what we're worth.

And that's how you will get the support you're going to need when, not if, you ask for more money.

The second incident was when I was doing the hiring. We offered the candidate the full salary as budgeted. She asked for more. I told her we had offered her as much as we could afford. And I was so happy that she asked.

So, we need to have this conversation. I'll start. I freelance, so my income depends on how much work I get — but in my best year, I make close to \$70,000.

Now it's your turn.

Renee Sylvestre-Williams is the publisher of the *Ethnic Aisle*, a digital magazine about race and ethnicity in Toronto.

THE MICROTREND: The prolific province



Ah, Saskatchewan. Wholesome, flat Saskatchewan. The province of grain growers, saskatoon berries, and ... babies? Yes. So many babies. Saskatchewan is bucking the Canada-wide trend towards an aging population. The children from this fertile land still outnumber seniors. According to a new Statistics Canada report, 19 per cent of Saskatchewanians are under 15 years old, compared to a 16 per cent average in Canada. Just 14.6 per cent of the population is 65 or older, versus 16.1 per cent nationwide. Why? In part, it's a growing population of indigenous people, who tend to skew younger and have higher fertility rates. And as for the dearth of old folks — many are retiring elsewhere to escape those cold prairie nights.

SOURCE: NEWS TALK 650/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Orson Welles' personal manuscripts for Citizen Kane fetch over \$102,000 at auction



Not your average chick-lit author

BOOKS

Jojo Moyes releases the sequel to 2013 bestseller

A book that wins millions of fans is a tough act to follow. And British novelist Jojo Moyes was all too aware of this as she wrote *After You*, the sequel to her New York Times bestseller *Me Before You*.

"It has been the most nerve-racking book that I've ever written," she said in an interview. "So many people feel so invested in these characters."

To say that *Me Before You* was an unexpected hit is an understatement.

When Moyes decided to write a romance between a caregiver and her depressed, paralyzed patient, her publisher was lukewarm.

"In hindsight I can understand why," Moyes says with a laugh. "A quadriplegic man who wants to die doesn't sound like the most compelling piece of fiction."

Except, of course, it was. *Me Before You* introduced the world to Louisa Clark, an endearing English everywoman. Her predictable, small-town life was blown open when she went to work for neighbour Will Traynor, a London hotshot who had been paralyzed by a traffic accident.

Their bond was intimate and powerful, but ultimately not enough to save Will from despair — and in the final pages they made the journey



British author Jojo Moyes' latest novel *After You* hit shelves this week. HANDOUT

to Dignitas in Switzerland to end his life.

Hardly your average chick-lit plot, but then Moyes has never been your average chick-lit author.

The former journalist distinguished herself early on from the cocktail-sipping masses.

Known for her wit, humour and cultural savvy, Moyes writes against the grain, sidestepping the familiar tropes of glamorous jobs and syrupy

soul mates.

"I have an absolute horror of being seen as somebody who just writes the handsome man who came in and swept her off her feet and everyone lives happily ever after," she says. "I'm far more interested in the messy stuff."

Me Before You catapulted Moyes out of this pink ghetto and made her a bona fide literary star.

She was reviewed by serious

publications and tapped by MGM to write the screenplay for *Me Before You*, due to hit theatres in 2016.

Most significantly for Moyes — who's had two family members require around-the-clock care — it placed her at the centre of the assisted suicide debate.

"I don't think you can hang onto a moral absolute if you are faced with the reality of that situation," she says. "The

only people who know all the answers are the people who've never been faced with the questions."

Moyes began to receive daily emails from readers around the world.

"The ones that really stand out to me are from the caregivers," she says. "They get me into the same head space as Lou, which is: you don't see the disability, you see the person that you love."

The character Lou was a lightning rod for all this emotion and people clamoured to know what happened to her. Moyes found herself wondering too.

And so *After You*, out this week, resurrects her. The novel finds Lou holed up in London, reverting back to her old ways, leading a claustrophobic life and tending bar at an Irish-themed airport pub.

"To be part of someone taking their own life would be such a huge event," says Moyes. "I needed to show that there was a cost to those sorts of decisions."

Lou belongs to a comical church basement grief group, The Moving On Circle, but is otherwise alone (until a surprise plot twist blows open her world once again).

"When I put myself in her shoes, I thought: What would you do? You would just be leading this very solitary existence. Because how on Earth could you justify what you've been part of to people who don't know the whole story?"

"That is one of the things that intrigues me and is probably a theme that I'll return to again and again," she says.

"How things look from the outside are not necessarily how they are." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Sex robots and blue teddy bears

MARGARET ATWOOD

Latest effort 'a dark, romantic comedy'

Margaret Atwood is clearly having fun.

Her latest book *The Heart Goes Last*, is a romp of a book featuring sex robots, Elvis impersonators and blue teddy bears that are sure to give you nightmares for weeks to come.

And she's having a blast on Twitter, of which she's a prodigious user — she's tweeted pics of herself in Vegas on the arm of a Captain Jack impersonator.

"That's the fun bit" about social media, she says, in an

interview in the airy downtown Toronto offices of Penguin Random House Canada where we're talking about the book as well as the possibilities of technology.

The Heart Goes Last began on Byliner, a "boutique" website that published literary authors online. Four episodes of the then-titled Positron series went up, but Byliner went down and the rights for the story reverted to Atwood and her Byliner editor Amy Grace Loyd suggested it become a book.

She calls it "a dark romantic comedy in which there are no heroes." But as with anything Atwood, satire ensures that even when you are having fun, you feel slightly uncomfortable.

The Heart Goes Last is a com-

ment on current politics — on unbridled capitalism, on the trend to the conservative right, on the tough economic times being faced by young people whose employment is precarious and whose dreams of a stable job, home and family are getting tougher to attain.

It's a thoroughly modern story, yet Atwood hearkens back to Victorian times and that era's novels of manners and the 1950s. She's long had a keen interest in the history and use of prisons — what should they be used for: punishment, to pay off a debt, to reform people, to make them penitent?

"We really need to think about that because right now we have an overstuffed prison

66

With each of the technologies we develop there's a good side, a dark side and a stupid side.

Margaret Atwood

system that's full of people who probably shouldn't be there at all and they're learning to be criminals."

This gives you a clue to what she really seems to be getting at in the latest of her more than 40 books of poetry, non-fiction and fiction.

So the idea is: why not use the prison for good: Let's give everybody a job and a roof over their heads. That gives birth in the book to the Positron Project — those who sign up live happily in the town of Consilience; the only trick is they have to live in a prison every second month. "This is a nice utopian scheme, it is a time-sharing scheme in which you play the prisoner one month and you get to be a citizen the next month."

The world of Consilience is

filled with echoes of the '50s. "They structure it to be a very calming situation."

It doesn't quite work out as a panacea to society's ills, but it does provide Atwood a way of looking at human nature — both of those who are running the joint and those who have signed up to stay inside.

While she is adamant there will be no spoilers, Atwood will say "I do think absolute power

corrupts, and I do think absolute temptation is very tempting if you think that nobody has oversight or can catch you doing whatever it is you're doing."

While it might seem rather hopeless, Atwood doesn't see it that way. She's compassionate, but she doesn't let us dodge personal responsibility.

Which brings us back to the sex robots.

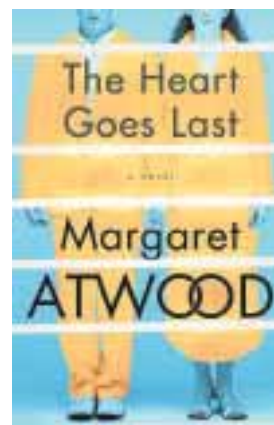
"With each of the technolo-

gies we develop there's a good side, a dark side and a stupid side which are the effects we hadn't anticipated. It's a Pandora's box.

"We've discovered a lot of things that could've destroyed us and we've pulled back in time," she notes.

The technology is neutral, she says. It's what we humans do with it that counts.

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Margaret Atwood says there are no heroes in *The Heart Goes Last*. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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GOSSIP BREAKUPS

Long time coming

Amanda Seyfried has apparently kicked boyfriend Justin Long to the curb after two years of dating, according to Us Weekly. "It happened a few weeks ago," a source explains. "He's really heartbroken." Earlier this year in an interview with Vogue, Seyfried both revealed how she initially fell for Long — on



Instagram, if you can believe it — and hinted that things might not be working out so well.

"I thought something he said was really funny. It was a beautiful picture of a snail, and the caption said, 'F—ing MOOOOOOOOVE.' It made me laugh out loud, so I texted him," she explained.

But: "Making movies is two solid months of 12-, 14-hour

days. I mean, it can ruin your relationship." Apparently she wasn't just talking hypothetically. NED EHRBAR/METRO

Austin Green wants that green

Poor Brian Austin Green. Not only is he going through a divorce — amicable or not — with Megan Fox, but now everyone gets to see the documents showing him ask-



ing her for spousal support. TMZ got

its hands on the filing this week in which Green valiantly checks the "spousal or domestic partner support" box, indicating that Fox is the bigger earner of the two. Which makes sense since Green has apparently been battling vertigo and not working much since he and Fox were in a car accident last December. Bummer, man. NED EHRBAR/METRO

O Brother, There art thou

SCREENING

Clooney and Coens reunite for film's 15th anniversary

George Clooney joined the Coen brothers, and co-stars Tim Blake Nelson and John Turturro at a special 15th-anniversary screening of *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* at the New York Film Festival.

Clooney remembered he had just left a successful TV series when the opportunity came up.

"I was an actor coming off of *ER*," said Clooney Tuesday night after arriving at the event. "The Coen brothers said, 'Do you want to do a movie?' And I was like, 'Yeah, I'll do a movie with the Coen brothers, are you kidding? They do great films.' I just couldn't believe my luck."

Clooney admits he felt a geographic familiarity with the characters. "I grew up in Kentucky and I kind of know these guys a little bit," he said.

Ethan Coen and his brother, Joel, wrote the screenplay, based on *The Odyssey* by Homer, and directed it. While the film was critically



George Clooney talks with Joel Coen on the red carpet before a special 15th anniversary screening of *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* during the New York Film Festival. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

acclaimed and enjoyed moderate success, the soundtrack was a smash hit. Produced by T Bone Burnett, it was made up of artists from the American roots music scene that included Alison Krauss, Ralph Stanley, Gillian Welch and Emmylou Harris. It sold 8 million albums and earned a Grammy Award for album of the year.

Coen loved how the music and the film unexpectedly came together, but also discussed the tricky marriage of the two.

One of biggest hits from the film, *I Am a Man of Constant Sorrow*, sung by the fictional Soggy Bottom Boys, which included Clooney, Blake-Nelson and Turturro, does not include Clooney's voice. It was actual-

ly bluegrass musician Dan Tyminski.

Clooney told reporters he originally recorded the track, but after he came out of the recording booth, producer Burnett just put his head down and looked away. Clooney said he knew at that moment his voice was getting dubbed.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RELATIONSHIPS

Ben dumps his nanny

Ned Ehrbar
Metro | Hollywood



They said it was just a phase, and apparently they were right. Ben Affleck has reportedly called off his post-divorce dalliance with his and Jennifer Garner's former nanny, Christine Ouzounian — to the rejoice of spell-checkers everywhere.

"He cut ties with her recently," a source tells Life & Style. "He told Christine he couldn't handle another relationship when things were still so painful and raw between him and Jen."



Sure, that. And maybe also because you shouldn't date the nanny? I mean, I understand the siren song of convenience and all, but come on. "He had fun with (her), but it wasn't love," the source adds, wistfully.

You know who was totally surprised by this development? Ouzounian herself, apparently, who was "blindsided" by the breakup.

"When Ben finally told Christine things were over, she was pissed," another source says. "Christine is very upset and says Ben should be worried. In her mind, this is far from over." Oh, delightful.

VEHICULAR MANSLAUGHTER

Jenner off the hook

Prosecutors declined to charge Caitlyn Jenner on Wednesday in a California car crash that killed another driver, citing insufficient evidence to support a case.

Authorities said Jenner was towing an off-road vehicle on a trailer behind a Cadillac Escalade on Feb. 7 when she crashed into two cars, pushing one into oncoming traffic. Driver Kim Howe died when her Lexus was hit by a Hummer in Malibu.

"We believed from the start that a thorough and objective investigation would clear Caitlyn of any criminal wrongdoing," said Blair Berk, Jenner's attorney. "We are heartened the district attorney has agreed that even a misdemeanor charge would be inappropriate. A traffic accident, however devastating and heartbreaking when a life is lost, is not necessarily a criminal matter."

The accident occurred before Jenner announced she is transgender and transitioned into her new identity as Caitlyn. Sheriff's investigators previously determined that Jenner, 65, was travelling at an unsafe speed for the road conditions at the time and there was enough evidence to support a vehicular manslaughter charge.

The case was then referred to the district attorney's major crimes division. A prosecutor wrote in a one-page sheet declining to file charges that Jenner was travelling slightly below the posted speed limit and began braking less than two seconds before the crash.

To prove misdemeanor vehicular manslaughter, prosecutors would have had to show Jenner was negligent and had violated a basic speed law.

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What's old is new again

CONDO TRENDS

A look at historic home renos and condo conversions around Canada

Duncan McAllister
For Metro Canada



In a popular real estate trend, former warehouses, churches and industrial buildings all across Canada are being converted into lofts and condos. In addition, a number of new condo builds are incorporating a historic podium or heritage facade, serving as the base of a brand-new tower rising above.

When done right, these venerable residential transformations make for a unique and classical living space, with vaulted ceilings, sash windows, limestone features, exposed brick and period lighting fixtures — exquisite details that you just don't find in contemporary buildings.

The former Eden House at 147 East Gate in Winnipeg was built in 1885, and has a lot of the original character to it. The century home is currently up for sale. "It's got that grand old home feel; it still has the servants' quarters," says real estate agent Tannis Engel.

Originally the Arthur F. Eden house, it's the oldest standing house in Armstrong Point. "It's right in the heart of downtown in a little pocket community along the river," says Tannis. The family has owned the property for 37 years. "It's true to its original size and shape and she (current owner Roslyn Scott) has restored it as accurately as she could."

In Edmonton, Chandos Construction Ltd. jacked-up a five-storey herit-



The former Eden House at Armstrong Point in Winnipeg was built in 1885, and still has a lot of its original character. ALL PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

age building, previously used as a warehouse, and built a parkade under it. No small feat under any circumstances. The Phillips Lofts at 10169-104th St. is a heritage condo conversion in Edmonton's Warehouse District.

The existing structure of the 90,000-sq.-ft. building consisted of rough-sawn timbers with a post-and-beam configuration. The Chandos design team incorporated these features to maintain the heritage of the building.

The Residences of Royal Connaught at 112 King St. E. in Hamilton, Ont., is a century-old grand hotel that has been meticulously renovated by Valery Homes and the Spallacci Group and converted into



The Residences of Royal Connaught in Hamilton.

modern condominium suites.

An exquisite art-deco lobby is the centrepiece of the heritage restoration. The grand foyer opens up to 23-foot ceilings with crystal chandeliers. Designed by KNY Architects, the completed project will include three new residential towers housing 700 condominium suites in the heart of downtown.

Valery Homes president Ted Valeri says that a project of this magnitude has many challenges. They literally saved the old hotel from the wrecking ball and brought it back to life.

"We've never done anything quite so fulfilling and satisfying," Valeri says. "It's a very rewarding feeling. The Royal Connaught is a special place to Hamiltonians."

+ A 19TH-CENTURY FACADE, A SECRET WAREHOUSE AND MORE

The Dillon Market Street 2941 Market St., Halifax

This new, eight-storey condominium building rises up from a historic facade from the 1800s. The development by Mosaik Properties is located at Market and Sackville. Built in 1860, the original structure housed a market on the main floor, run by the Dillon family. Dillon's Corner became a lively hub of commerce and the area became known as Market Street.



The Dillon Market Street condos.

Legendary Warehouse Lofts 1920 Bank St., Ottawa

Legendary Warehouse is a new condominium residence by Linden Developments with 10 storeys and 116 units. Legend has it that the building was a secret warehouse in Ottawa's south side, used to store kegs of whiskey. Currently under construction, the authentic loft-style condo spaces are industrially inspired, with a natural stone and wood lobby. The suites offer a live-work environment.

Imperial Lofts 220 11th Ave. SE, Calgary

With towering 13-foot ceilings and an open floor plan, these authentic lofts boast exposed brick walls and a concrete framework, with downtown views through industrial-sized windows. Built in 1929 to house the Imperial Tobacco Company, the vintage building was converted to condos in 1995.

The First Baptist Church 969 Burrard St., Vancouver

Plans are underway in downtown Vancouver to build a 56-storey condominium tower behind the historic First Baptist Church. If approved, the lands of the Gothic-styled church at Burrard and Nelson are about to undergo a major redevelopment in a collaboration with Westbank Corp. and Bing Thom Architects that will include a condominium and community gardens.

The mistakes homebuyers make

COSTLY

First-time homebuyers can end up investing in a nightmare

Analyse Smart For Metro

Buying a home can be one of the most rewarding decisions you'll make, but make the wrong moves, and you could end up investing in a costly nightmare.

Mike Stewart, a Vancouver-based Realtor®, shares some of the most common mistakes he sees with first-time home buyers.

Not speaking to a lender or mortgage broker first

Stewart says most people wouldn't go shopping without knowing how much money they have in the bank or available credit on their cards, and the same should apply when shopping for a home.

"A lot of first-time homebuyers get out there and say, 'OK, great, my mom says I can get a



Research the real estate agent beforehand so you know there's expertise behind that firm handshake. SHUTTERSTOCK

loan for \$700,000. Let's go find a place," he says. "And then they spend all their time, all their family's time, all their Realtor's time, get an accepted

offer on a property and after a huge big hassle it turns out they can only afford \$200,000."

Talking to a mortgage broker first, he says, will let you know

exactly what you're working with.

Not hiring a Realtor

Stewart says you should always

get a Realtor, who will prevent you from making mistakes like overpaying. "Hiring someone who knows what they're doing and you don't have to pay

them — that's worth its weight in gold," he says.

You should also make sure to research the people you will be hiring beforehand.

"The Internet is the most powerful system for doing due diligence on professionals that exists," he says. "If there's nothing on this person, they're probably not very experienced. If there's tons of stuff on this person and it's all positive, chances are you want to work with them. If it says Joe Realtor is a scumbag and he ripped me off, then you don't want to work with that person."

Not getting a home inspection

Getting a home inspection saves you from learning unpleasant truths about your home later. Stewart lists some of the possibilities that may await you should you not heed this advice.

"You buy a house with asbestos, you buy a house with mold, you buy a house that's been renovated without permits and you can't get insurance on it — if you can't get insurance, you can't get a mortgage," he says. "Basically, getting a home inspection will help you avoid buying a money pit."

Flipping versus buying

Real Estate is one of the smartest investments you can make. The long-term trend in Canada is that the value is almost certain to go up — but if you are looking for a quick turnaround, flipping may or may not be right for you.

John Stassen, a designer, contractor, renovator and former host of HGTV's The Big Flip, says buying with the intention of flipping versus a longer-term investment will call for different strategies.

When choosing a home to live in, buyers might be OK with paying a little above market value and won't want major renovations as it is just too disruptive.

Those looking to flip, however, are playing by a different set of rules.

"You're looking for the worst home on the best street, and you can't be afraid of walking away from a deal if the competition drives the price up beyond what your calculations show you can purchase it for," he says. "The most common mistakes made are underestimating the cost of the renovations and overpaying for a property you have chosen as a flip."

Stassen says you also need



You need a lot of working capital for flips. SHUTTERSTOCK

a lot more working capital for flips, with projects he's worked on ranging from under \$30,000 to more than \$180,000.

"You will definitely need access to extra cash and/or reasonable rate financing when taking on a project," he says. "While flipping you can go months

before seeing your profit on a project and you can't be left struggling to pay your own bills."

Choosing the "right" neighbourhood also becomes more important.

"The joke we had was if the area already has a Starbucks in it you'd missed the boat for flip-

FROM A BROKER

Lina Porretta, a broker with Forest Hill Real Estate in Toronto, says getting financing to flip a home is not as easy as it would be for your home. "Getting a mortgage for a second property isn't as easy as borrowing for your primary residence," she says. "If you aren't able to secure traditional financing, third party lenders charge premiums." Your taxes may also be different, so Porretta advises speaking with your accountant to understand the tax implications of your purchase.

ping," he says. "The key is to find areas that are just beginning to gain popularity."

Stassen says combining traditional home purchasing and flipping can be a great strategy. "If you can afford it the approach of buying a property while residing elsewhere, renovating it then moving in for a year or more before selling can provide the best of both worlds," he says.

ANALISE SMART/FOR METRO

THE HOOD

How to pick the right location

Location, location, location is the home-hunter's maxim, so how to choose?

Real estate professionals say that what makes something the "right" neighbourhood is as much a personal preference as it is an intrinsic rule.

Ramin Khaze, a sales representative with Forest Hill Real Estate Inc. Brokerage in Toronto, says his advice for choosing the right neighbourhood is the same he would give about choosing the right house.

"They need to keep in mind that there is no perfect neighbourhood just like there is no perfect house," he says. "No matter where you end up you will have to sacrifice something, whether it is the commute to work or a school district for kids, or access to public transportation."

Khaze says homebuyers need to make a list of what they want, with considera-

tions that include everything from budget, to whether they want a new home or an older one, right down to how many bathrooms are needed and what kind of finishes are desired.

Ideally you want to strike the right balance between the home you want and the neighbourhood you want, Khaze says.

"Some clients prefer to sacrifice size and living space to be more in the action Other clients would compromise the neighbourhood to have a house where they get what they want in size, bedrooms, land and such," he says. "It goes back what is important to you in a neighbourhood versus what is important to you in a house."

As for concerns about weighing budget against the desire to live in a particular neighbourhood, Khaze says buyers shouldn't stretch themselves too thin.

"I always tell clients to think with their heads and not their hearts, he says. "They may fall in love with a neighbourhood, but they may not end up enjoying it because they have stretched themselves so much financially they can't go out and enjoy it. You want to be comfortable in your new home and new area." ANALISE SMART/FOR METRO



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A winter rest will do your garden good

Steps to ensure an ultimate spring awakening

With the proper fall maintenance you can set your lawn and garden down for a peaceful rest.

"After a busy summer of mowing and maintenance, your lawn and garden will need some special care before the snow falls," says Michelle Sordi, director of marketing for Husqvarna. "You can, however, jump-start your spring chores for growing a healthier garden."

To ensure your garden survives the winter and has the ultimate spring awakening, experts recommend the following steps:

- Clean up the area: Be sure to remove any dead foliage. This will prevent a difficult spring cleanup and overgrown weeds. Harvest everything above ground in the vegetable garden to avoid attracting animals and pests.

- Protect your shrubs: To help keep your

shrubs healthy, generously water them before wrapping in burlap for the winter. When wrapping, work your way from the bottom up to prevent the bending of branches in an unnatural form.

- Fertilize before the frost: Your grass will start to slow its growth, so it is important to fertilize it with the appropriate nutrients to survive the harsh months ahead. Also, the clippings from the final mowing should be left on the lawn as mulch to help protect the delicate crowns of the grass, as well as lock in nutrients.

- Take it indoors: Some plants fare better indoors during the winter, but before you make the switch, immerse the pots in lukewarm water to help remove insects and prevent other unwanted critters from transferring into your home. Also, check the leaves of the plant and give them a quick rinse as an added precaution.



SHUTTERSTOCK

- Store your tools properly: Last, but not least, remember to clean all your gardening tools thoroughly before storing them indoors. Use soap and water to remove residual dirt and dried-on materials from tool surfaces. Be sure

to drain the fuel from mowers, as gasoline left in fuel tanks will break down, leaving deposits and buildup that will plug up the fuel system.

— News Canada

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CONTRIBUTED

TAKE DECOR TO NEXT LEVEL

Are you looking for a way to update your home without a total overhaul? Upgrading your flooring is a great place to start, according to the expert interior design team at The Floor Show, a provider of high-quality flooring options in Winnipeg.

Here are three ways you can take your decor game to the next level.

Tiles can be playful or rooted in tradition. You can do anything with them. White subway tiles will give your bathroom a clean look, while marble floor tiles will add luxury to your bathroom, and a glass tile backsplash can give your kitchen a sleek, contemporary feel.

The Ann Sacks line of tile and stone at The Floor Show offers these options and many others to perfectly suit the look for which you are searching. Visit the showroom to check out the line.

The beautiful patterns, textures and colours of hardwood don't just belong on the floor. Hardwood can go on your walls, too.

The Floor Show carries high-quality decorative wall panels called FriendlyWall, innovative and eco-responsible hardwood wall panels that can be installed within hours. They add warmth and texture anywhere, from your accent wall, to your fireplace, to your bar backsplash.

Are you looking to give your space a cosy feel? Cork is an eco-friendly option that comes in many rich colours and patterns. Cork is insulating, durable and naturally mould resistant. Its spongy texture provides a comfortable cushion underfoot, and is perfect for spaces in your home that need sound or heat insulation.

For more, visit thefloorshow.ca.

THE STORE THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

One does not need to look far in Winnipeg to find unique, one-of-a-kind, good quality and affordable used furniture to refurbish a home.

Walking into the brightly lit and neatly displayed MCC Furniture Thrift Store on 18 Keewatin St., you will discover anything from solid wood dining tables and chairs, to antique china cabinets, sofa sets, recliners, kitchen and bedroom sets, and so much more. This fabulous, two-storey shop boasts more than 10,000 square feet of showroom space and is ideal for students, homeowners, newcomers, home stagers, movie designers, bargain hunters and anyone wanting to create, up-cycle or simply change their decor.

"The magic of the store lies in its mission statement," says store manager Laurie Goetz. "Every purchase is a gift to the world."

The non-profit thrift store relies solely on gently used donated furniture and appliances in good and working condition. One hundred per cent of net proceeds is forwarded to the Mennonite Central Committee, which invests in numerous humanitarian programs, both locally and globally. The MCC Furniture Thrift Store, which is celebrating its 12th anniversary this year, is able to keep its costs low by having a large volunteer base, which

is responsible for anything from moving and repairing furniture to answering phones to general housekeeping. There are more than 50 volunteers in this location alone.

"One of our volunteers, Betty, has a very artistic side to her," Goetz says. "She will take old, possibly unsellable pieces of furniture and recreate them into magnificent displays of art. Not only does this add a wonderful creative touch, enhancing our atmosphere, but it also increases the value of the item, enabling us to make a larger donation to MCC."

"Customers will often come in and see Betty at work and engage in conversations with her about the projects she is working on, all while being inspired to tackle a piece of their own."

New items are added to the store daily so there is always a huge selection and wonderful variety from which to choose.

"This is a win-win place for everyone," Goetz says. "Customers can make affordable purchases with good conscience knowing that the money that they are spending is supporting those less fortunate."

For anyone considering making a donation, a tax receipt can be provided for items valued at \$100 or more.



CONTRIBUTED

MCC Furniture Thrift Store

12th Anniversary

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WHERE EVERY PURCHASE IS A GIFT TO THE WORLD

Lending a helping hand

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Volunteer-based group assists with cancer treatment costs

Alana Trachenko
For Metro

Receiving a cancer diagnosis is one of the scariest things many of us can imagine, but the news can be even more difficult to hear for someone who can't afford the costs that are associated with treatments.



Val Poole

While the government will help cover some costs — such as chemotherapy treatment and some medications — many cancer patients are still faced with expenses.

Helping Hands for Manitobans with Breast Cancer is a volunteer-based, grassroots

organization that helps address the financial needs of cancer patients who are not able to afford the extra costs of cancer treatment.

"It's a lot of stress if you know you have a lot of expenses that you can't pay for and aren't budgeted," said Val Poole, one of 12 volunteers on the group's board of directors. "A lot of our clients aren't working for a period of time when they get diagnosed. We've had clients who have lost their job."

Other costs might include transportation to and from treatments, certain medications, wigs, prostheses, and the special bras that they require. Many of Helping Hands' clients live outside of the city and rely on the funding to travel to CancerCare.

"A lot of women 10 years ago weren't buying the bras,"



Helping Hands for Manitobans with Breast Cancer held its first fashion show at Nygaard Fashion Park Tuesday. ALANA TRACHENKO PHOTO

Poole said. "They were just stuffing socks or whatever they could into their regular bras. And they weren't coming in from out of town for appointments because they couldn't afford it."

The group works one-on-one with patients, but like a diag-

nosis, the financial support has a ripple effect and lightens the load for the entire family.

"It affects the quality of life for the family as much as the person," Poole said. "I've been diagnosed myself in 2005 and I had offers from my family to help. Everybody tries, but

once you run into radiation treatments, you don't want to be an inconvenience to anyone."

For many clients, relying on family simply isn't an option. Following a diagnosis, family members might be required to work more to make up for

the loss in income and take on more household responsibilities as well.

The group works with third-party fundraisers to help bring in donations. Helping Hands held its first fashion show at Nygaard Fashion Park Tuesday, and sold all 200 of the event's tickets.

Working for your family



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meSPORTS

Your essential daily news

"Not to sound cocky or anything," but Adrian Peterson says he's the best running back in the NFL



Jays have their banner day

The Blue Jays clinched the AL East — their first division title in 22 years — on Wednesday. PATRICK SMITH/GETTY IMAGES

MLB

Toronto earns berth in ALDS

It wasn't the storybook scene anyone would have dreamt up: a half-empty road stadium in the first half of a doubleheader on a Wednesday afternoon.

It was a moment 22 years in the making for the Toronto Blue Jays franchise and almost a year in the making for the 2015 team. In front of an intimate crowd at Camden Yards wearing more blue than orange, the Blue Jays routed the Baltimore Orioles 15-2 to clinch the American League East.

The pennant is Toronto's first since 1993, when it won

IN BALTIMORE

15 BLUE JAYS
2 ORIOLAS

its second of back-to-back World Series titles. It assures the Blue Jays a spot in the five-game AL Division Series rather than the uncertainty of a one-game wild-card playoff.

"It's been a really long time since this city has been to the playoffs, so to do it for the City of Toronto and to do it with this group of guys, it's been a dream come true," said pitcher Marcus Stroman, who earned the win.

In late July, any kind of post-season appearance would have

been welcomed, before general manager Alex Anthopoulos went all-in, trading for shortstop Troy Tulowitzki, ace David Price, outfielder Ben Revere and relievers LaTroy Hawkins and Mark Lowe at the deadline.

Those moves worked like a charm, taking a Blue Jays team that was 50-51 and eight games back of first place on the day Tulowitzki entered the lineup on a 42-14 run up the standings, past the New York Yankees and into October.

Winning the division seemed inevitable in recent days as the Yankees struggled and the Blue Jays kept rolling.

The final victory of that accomplishment came Wednesday with young stud Stroman on the mound in just his fourth start of

the season following a torn ACL in spring training. Stroman (4-0) was masterful yet again, striking out eight and allowing just one run on five hits in eight innings.

In typical Blue Jays fashion, the most productive lineup in baseball led the way by tormenting opposing pitching. With Anthopoulos watching in the first row above the visiting dugout, the Blue Jays poured it on, scoring four runs in the fifth.

Edwin Encarnacion hit his

37th home run of the season, a two-run shot, in the seventh to get to double digits, and Jose Bautista hit his 40th in the ninth. Justin Smoak added a two-run shot to put an exclamation point on the blowout.

It was the 41st time in 157 games Toronto scored eight or more runs.

Everyone in the lineup got at least one hit for a total of 18. Ryan Goins

set a new career high with five.

This division title also came with the guarantee of home-field advantage in the ALDS. The Blue Jays will either play host to the AL West champions — the Texas Rangers, Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim or Houston Astros — or the wild-card team at Rogers Centre for Game 1 on Oct. 8.

Home-field throughout the playoffs is within reach, too. The Blue Jays' magic number to earn the top seed in the AL is three — any combination of victories and Kansas City Royals losses.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

I think home field (advantage) for us with the environment that we have now at that stadium ... We'd love to get it.

General manager Alex Anthopoulos



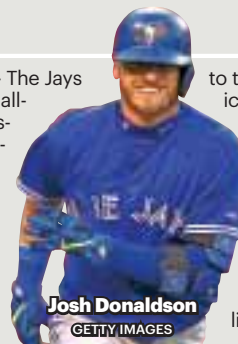
+ TIMELINE

The Blue Jays' journey to winning the division title began a year ago. Here are some pivotal moments within that span:

Nov. 1, 2014 — The Jays trade longtime first baseman/designated hitter Adam Lind to the Milwaukee Brewers for right-handed pitcher Marco Estrada.

Nov. 18, 2014 — The Jays sign three-time all-star catcher Russell Martin, a native of Toronto.

Nov. 28, 2014 — The Jays trade Canadian third baseman Brett Lawrie and prospects



Josh Donaldson
GETTY IMAGES

to the Oakland Athletics for third baseman Josh Donaldson.

March 10, 2015 — Marcus Stroman, who was supposed to be Toronto's 24-year-old ace, tears the anterior cruciate ligament in his left

knee during fielding practice and is expected to be out for the season.

July 12, 2015 — Toronto goes into the all-star break 45-46.

July 28, 2015 — In a blockbuster deal with the Colorado Rockies, the Blue Jays get shortstop Troy Tulowitzki and reliever LaTroy Hawkins.

July 30, 2015 — The trade bonanza hits its apex as the Blue Jays acquire pending free-agent ace David Price from the Detroit Tigers.

Aug. 12, 2015 — The 10th victory of an 11-game winning streak, coupled with a Yankees loss, puts the Blue Jays in first place in the AL East by a half-game.

Aug. 23, 2015 — A rout of the Angels wraps up a three-game sweep in Anaheim as the Blue Jays get back into first place.

Sept. 12, 2015 — Stroman makes his triumphant season debut and is impressive as the Blue Jays sweep a Yankee Stadium doubleheader to move 4-1/2 games up.

Petan could be priceless for Jets

VIEW FROM THE 300S

**Andrew
'Hustler'
Paterson**



With two pre-season games to go, the Winnipeg Jets roster is taking shape.

After 14 players were sent to the Manitoba Moose, two more were returned to their junior clubs on Monday, and Connor Hellebuyck made his way to the Moose Wednesday, the roster sits at 26.

Three more cuts need to be made to get to the roster limit of 23 when the NHL regular season begins next week.

The Jets hosted Ottawa Tuesday night at MTS Centre and for the first time this pre-season the lineup included captain Andrew Ladd, Bryan Little and Tyler Myers.

While the veterans made their pre-season debuts, one young player in particular stood out as the star of the show in an exciting 4-3 comeback overtime win — Nic Petan.

Petan came to camp this season after finishing an incredible career in Portland

of the WHL. Generously listed at five foot nine and 175 pounds, the 2013 second rounder will never be big by NHL standards, but makes up for any lack of size with incredible skill and a hockey sense that makes the puck look like it is following him at times.

Tuesday night's game began with Petan skating on the fourth line with Andrew Copp at centre and veteran Chris Thorburn on the opposite wing.

By the end of the three-on-three overtime period, Petan had played with most of the team.

He was outstanding in even strength and power play opportunities, and also drew a key penalty by taking the puck hard to the net in the third period.

The versatility Petan will give Paul Maurice more options at his disposal if he is in the Jets lineup.

Where the other players competing for fourth line roles all bring a mix of size and aggressiveness, none of them have the vision and offensive instincts the Petan

has shown already.

Petan makes the team far more offensively dangerous and can contribute on the power play.

The question will be whether he has convinced the coach he has the defensive side of the game to be an everyday player at this point.

With Nikolaj Ehlers looking like he will start the season in Maurice's Top 9 and rookie Andrew Copp likely centering the fourth line, the decision for the final roster spot probably comes down to a competition this week between Petan, JC Lipon and Thomas Raffl.

Lipon and Raffl have both been pleasant surprises in camp. Lipon has shown the organization the can be an effective fourth liner with an agitating side to his game.

Raffl is a physically imposing presence who has scored in Europe and certainly has not looked out of place in the pre-season.

But in the end, the tantalizing potential of what Petan can do for the Jets right now may be too much to pass on for Paul Maurice.



Nic Petan, far right, is not as tall as his teammates but what he lacks in size, he makes up for in skill. There is, however, a question mark over his defensive abilities. TREVOR HAGAN / THE CANADIAN PRESS

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APPLY TODAY!

CFL

Linebacker Muamba now a Montreal man

The Montreal Alouettes have agreed to terms with free agent linebacker Henoc Muamba.

The former Winnipeg Blue Bomber and Indianapolis Colt was in Montreal on Wednesday for a medical examination. He will not be ready to play Thursday night against the Redblacks in Ottawa.

"We are pumped that Henoc has chosen to join our team," coach and general manager Jim Popp said in a statement. "His intelligence, versatility and physicality are welcome in helping us down the stretch as we push for a playoff spot."

"This isn't just a signing of need at this time, this is a win-win situation for both Henoc and the Alouettes on and off the field in our community, now and in the future. We are equally excited about helping Henoc build

his post-football career in the community and we are looking forward to him wanting to work in the Together at School with the Alouettes program with his new teammates."

Muamba, 26, was drafted first overall by Winnipeg in 2011 from St. Francis Xavier University. He was the Bombers' player of the year in 2013 when he had 106 defensive tackles.

He was released in February 2014 to pursue an NFL career and signed with Indianapolis. He dressed for 13 games for the Colts last season and had six tackles.

Muamba was released Sept. 5 and became a free agent, drawing interest from several CFL teams.

The Alouettes were shorthanded at middle linebacker with Bear Woods out for the season with an arm injury and Kyler Ellsworth also on the injured list. THE

CANADIAN PRESS



**Henoc
Muamba**
GETTY IMAGES

CFL IN BRIEF

Toronto's BMO Field to host 2016 Grey Cup

The Canadian Football League's championship game will be played in Toronto next year.

BMO Field will host the 2016 Grey Cup, a source said. The CFL is expected to make the official announcement at a news conference Thursday afternoon. Toronto last hosted the championship game in 2012 at Rogers Centre, where the Argonauts beat Calgary 35-22 in the 100th Grey Cup. This year's Grey Cup will be played at Winnipeg's Investors Group Field. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Al Benecick, Roughrider of old, passes away

Al Benecick, who spent 10 seasons as an offensive lineman with the Saskatchewan Roughriders, has died. He was 78. Benecick died Tuesday in Tallahassee, Fla., the CFL club said Wednesday in a release. There was no word on the cause of death.

Benecick, who joined the Roughriders in 1959, was known for his reliability and toughness, the Syracuse University grad played offensive guard and tackle during his time with Saskatchewan. THE CANADIAN PRESS

RECIPE Mushroom Barley Soup



PHOTO: MAMA VINSYTE

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Whip up a pot of this simple, earthy soup and have leftovers for lunch the next day.

Ready in
Prep time: 25 minutes
Serves 6

- Ingredients**
- 2 Tbsp olive oil
 - 2 or 3 cloves of garlic, minced
 - 1 onion, diced
 - 2 medium carrots, peeled, diced
 - 2 stalks of celery diced
 - 1 lb of cremini mushrooms, brushed clean and sliced
 - 2 Tbsp fresh thyme (less if using dried)

- 3/4 cup of pearl barley
- 5 cups of stock (vegetable, chicken or beef all work)
- Salt and pepper to taste

Directions

1. In a large pot or Dutch oven warm up the olive oil over medium heat. Add your vegetables and thyme and allow to soften for about 3 to 5 minutes.
2. Add the barley and give it a good stir to coat it. Now pour the stock over and allow soup to simmer for about 20 minutes until the barley is tender but still chewy. Taste to check seasoning.

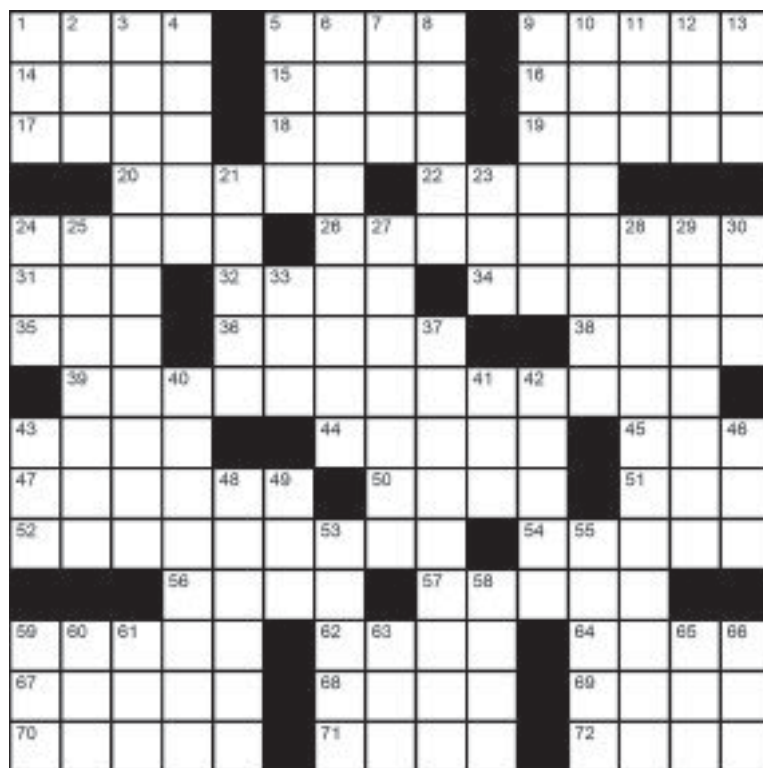
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CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

ACROSS

1. Icelandic myth story
5. Frolic
9. Sunday song
14. Momentarily
15. Iris spot in the eye
16. Western movie
17. Saloon slurp
18. Darned
19. Small song-birds
20. More kind
22. Art for #23-Down
24. Tim Hortons _ (Curling championship)
26. Car trunk item: 2 wds.
31. So far
32. University for 2016 Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton
34. TV teasers
35. Spring month, briefly
36. Ironed pants line
38. Canadian composer Mr. MacDermot
39. Moose Jaw's nickname: 2 wds.
43. Nickname of Montreal's 1976 Summer Games stadium: wd. + letter
44. Kangaroo jacket feature
45. Passports, e.g.
47. Nose, slang-style
50. Expanse
51. Mesh
52. Launches an attack on the castle
54. Like linen-



- making fibre
56. Old currency
57. Harped on
59. Ancient language
62. Pad _ (Noodle dish)
64. Farm sound effect
67. Aristocracy

68. Dog playthings
69. Bygone time
70. Carries out the commands
71. Highlands tongue
72. Forensic IDs

DOWN

1. Twisty turn

2. _ Jones Industrial Average
3. " _ _ _": Hit by #9-Down that continues "...on the wrong side of town!"
4. Rolling Stones classic
5. Sly tactic
6. Don't respond to

- the alarm clock
7. Kitten cry
8. "Kung Fu _" (2008)
9. As per #3-Down... The _ Blues (Band from Vancouver)
10. _ Springs (New York state race-track locale)

11. Corroded
12. Mr. Kravitz, for short
13. Simon & Garfunkel's " _ Robinson"
21. Creepy chamber
23. Alsatian artist Jean
24. _ _ landslide
25. Painting like the real painting
27. Fall fashion classic: 2 wds.
28. Cloud of creativity
29. Contacts index on a classic office desk
30. "C _ la vie!"
33. " _ My Children"
37. Week parts each week
40. Relationship to the keynote in music
41. Frost
42. Fray
43. Graduate's degree, e.g.
46. Swine spot
48. Supposes
49. Switzerland's largest city [abbr.]
53. Frothy-topped hot beverage
55. Andrew Webber link
58. Smart
59. Horseshoe roarer
60. Vatican vestment
61. Affiliation
63. Vertical opp.
65. Firearms org. in The States
66. "Star Trek: Voyager" role

★ IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
Your imagination is so powerful there is a danger you could let your fears get out of hand. There are two ways to deal with your current dilemma: either do something about it or act as if it does not exist.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Someone will go out of their way for you today, which makes you suspicious. What are they after? What's in it for them? The question you should be asking is: why can't I just accept that some people are nice by nature?

Gemini May 22 - June 21
What occurs today will help you see things in perspective. It will also remind you that life is too short to waste on things that don't matter.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
You may be under the impression that you can say anything to anyone and get away with it but don't be so sure. You seem to be under divine protection but it could rapidly be withdrawn.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
You ought to make it up to someone you've been neglecting. That's fine but don't be too generous — what others want most is your attention, they don't care about cash.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You will be hugely responsive to other people's moods but you need to take care that their negative feelings don't start having a negative effect on you. Erect an emotional wall.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Some things are best left in the realms of fantasy. Having a dream is one thing but what if, when it comes true, you find it is really a nightmare? Stick to reality, it's safer.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Try not to let others lack for compassion today but you may lack for common sense. Don't let others fool you into thinking that you are doing the right thing, when in fact the real right thing is to leave well alone.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Try to impress, especially people who can help with your ambitions, but don't go too far and claim you can deliver results that are really way beyond you. Even a Sag has limits.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Don't let rivals undermine your confidence today, especially on the work front where a setback has already put a dent in your morale. You will soon be moving up again.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Try not to let others know too much about what you are doing. Knowledge is power and the more knowledge you give away the less power you have for yourself.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Relationships will generally go well today but be wary of anyone whose attitude towards you goes from one extreme to the other in a matter of minutes. It could be they are trying to confuse you for their own benefit.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9



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